

WALDVIERTLER BLONDVIEH (AUSTRIA)

Waldviertler Blondvieh cow



Origin: The origin of the breed lies in crossing Oldillyric-Celtic cattle with Hungarian grey cattle which were later commonly mixed with cattle of the German yellow, Mürztaler and Mariahofer. Since 1900 the breed has been referred to as Waldviertler Blondvieh owing to the society of the same name. Until 1960 the breed was seen on every field in Lower Austria, but became more rare later, because of the increasing economic pressure, through mixing it with Fleckvieh cattle.

As an old breed the Waldviertler Blondvieh carries traits like pleasant nature and obedience, because of having been used as draught and working animals. In 1982 the Waldviertler Blondvieh was deemed to be nearly extinct, which is why intensive breeding programs with the last 23 cows and three bulls were initiated to stop their extinction. Today their comeback is celebrated, focusing mainly on meat taste and quality and also the wholesomeness of their milk. Now the Waldviertler Blondvieh is the second important mother cow breed in Lower Austria. In Upper Austria, Styria and in Vorarlberg this cow is also bred today.

Close relatives are German yellow cattle, such as the Mariahoferrasse and Carinthian Blondvieh.

Characteristics: The slow-growing body remains small and shows an average grade of muscles with high meat quality. The colour of this cattle ranges from nearly white to bright red to yellow blond with a flesh-coloured planum nasolabial and yellow/gray horns and claws. The cattle adapt very well to adverse weather conditions, tolerate infertile soils and is robust versus diseases.

They are undemanding animals, non-greedy and late-maturing. During the calving it is almost never necessary to interfere.

Waldviertler Blondvieh bull



The birth weight ranges between 36 and 38,3 kg, which speaks for an easy calving process. It's the ideal breed for mother cow husbandry, using it for high quality meat products. However the in-breeding level is very high because too small a number of breeding bulls have been used for artificial insemination in recent years.

Products: The meat is strongly marmorate, juicy, low fibrous and very delicate. The colour is darker and contains less fat than common beef, which is why all calves are raised as dairy mast calves for commercial kitchens.

Even without seasoning the meat has a distinctive taste and has a relatively short cooking time.

Meat efficiency test 2011 showed: 126 control herds, 952 control cows, 122 breeding herds, 945 breed registry cows.

Milk efficiency test 2011 indicated: 7 control herds, 10 control cows, 7 breeding herds, 10 breed registry cows: milk: 3580 kg, fat: 3,9 % and protein: 3,34 %.

Population number: Population in 2011: 969 animals, 127 farms, endangered breed.

Bibliography: <http://www.nbwikis.at>, <http://www.oengene.at>, <http://www.zar.at/>, <http://www.archeprojekt.at>

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